



U.S. Department of Justice
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Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

August 8, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. PAGE MARTIN & A.D. BEDELL COMPANY, INC.

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehltrittter announced today that Chief District Judge Richard J. Arcara sentenced Page Martin, 54, of 5003 Whig Street, Salamanca, to 27 months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, fined Martin \$50,000, and ordered him to forfeit \$2,450,000, based on Martin's October 29, 2003, plea of guilty to racketeering conspiracy. Arcara also fined Martin's corporation, the now-defunct Salamanca cigarette wholesaler A.D. Bedell Company, Inc., \$500,000 based on the corporation's October 29, 2003, plea to racketeering conspiracy.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony M. Bruce, who handled the case, stated that in pleading guilty, both defendants admitted that they had knowingly supplied millions of dollars of untaxed cigarettes to 31 co-defendants by using a Cattaraugus Indian Reservation smokeshop as a "cover," knowing that the cigarettes they were shipping to the smokeshop were not destined for the smokeshop's shelves, but rather were destined for sale in the Detroit area, at delis in Buffalo, and elsewhere.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge David DeJoe; the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons; the Erie County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Tim Howard; and the Buffalo Police Department, under the direction of Police Commissioner Rocco Diina.